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BOROUGH



OF LUTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and Divisional Medical Officer

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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Divisional Medical Officer*

G. F. MACEFIELD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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BOROUGH



OF LUTON

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
LUTON.

February, 1951.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the report for the year 1950 I feel it would be your wish that I should make a brief comment on the health services of Luton, and in addition, amplify a few more of the more important statistical data contained in the body of the report. I should like, therefore, to draw attention to the infant mortality rate which is one of our most valuable indices of community health. During 1950, 38 infants died before reaching the age of 1 year giving an infant mortality rate of 22 per 1,000 live births. The lowest infant mortality rate previously recorded in Luton was 26 per 1,000 in 1949. A more detailed examination of the rate for 1950 reveals that the decline in infant mortality since 1949 is due to a marked fall in the number of deaths of infants under four weeks of age. The death rate for infants under four weeks of age has hitherto been less subject to change than that of the four weeks to twelve months group, and the neo-natal death rate of 12.07 for 1950 is consequently also the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. On the other hand, however, it should also be noted that the stillbirth rate of 26.3 per 1,000 total births compares unfavourably with the provisional figure of 22.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

The steady increase of the town's population has been maintained during 1950. The Registrar-General's mid-year estimate of 110,000 shows an increase of 760 over the previous year.

The birth rate, on the other hand, has continued to fall, the rate of 15.8 being the lowest since 1941. The total number of registered births was 1,786 and of this number 1,149 (64%) took place in hospital. The system of admission of cases to maternity units of the Luton and Hitchin Group Hospital Management Committee is on a selection basis. All first pregnancies and fifth and subsequent pregnancies are normally admitted to hospital, as also are the second, third and fourth pregnancies which present some complication. In addition are admitted those cases which would normally be confined at home, but which, on account of adverse home circumstances, are recommended for admission by the health department. This system of selection works well and helps to explain the fall in hospital confinements

in 1950 as compared with 1947 when approximately 75% of total confinements occurred in hospital. One would have thought, however, that as a result of this process of selection there might have been a fall in the stillbirth rate, but this objective has not so far been achieved.

Poliomyelitis once again became epidemic in England and Wales during 1950, and in Luton there were 15 confirmed cases, 10 of which occurred in the 5-15 age group. Two cases were under 5 years of age and the remaining three were between 25-45 years of age. The first Luton case was notified on April 13th, two more occurred on May 8th and a fourth on June 10th. In anticipation of a large number of cases in the late summer and autumn it was decided to suspend diphtheria immunisation sessions during August, September and October. General practitioners were accordingly notified of the intention and their co-operation was secured. Immunisation clinics were reopened on November 1st and functioned normally until the end of the year, but it will be noted that there has been a decrease in the total number of children immunised in 1950 as compared with 1949. In this connection it is worthy of note that for the second year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified, although one child normally resident in Luton developed the disease whilst residing outside the Borough. This freedom from diphtheria in two consecutive years should not be allowed to give rise to complacency. It is as essential now, as it has been in the past, for parents to ensure that their children are immunised against diphtheria just before their first birthday and that a reinforcing injection is given at the time of school entry when their children have attained the age of 5 years.

During 1950 there was an increase in the number of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis. This increase can be attributed to the visit of the miniature mass radiography unit during March. It has not been possible to ascertain the exact number by age and sex of Luton residents who were X-rayed at this time. We can say, however, that of those who were referred by the mass radiography unit to the Luton Chest Clinic, 71 were subsequently notified as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis. The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis on the other hand, is less than half that of 1949 and the mortality rate of 0.2 per 1,000 population is the lowest ever recorded for Luton. The lowest rate previously recorded was 0.4 per 1,000 population in 1938. It would be unreasonable to expect this low record mortality rate to be maintained in subsequent years—indeed, the unusually low mortality figure for 1950 may even be fortuitous—but it should be noted that provisional figures for England and Wales, issued by the Ministry

of Health for the first half of 1950, also show a marked fall in the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis.

During the year 1,069 cases of measles and 613 cases of whooping cough were notified. Six cases of measles and 34 cases of whooping cough were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. There was no death as a result of either of these infectious diseases during the year.

Only three cases of dysentery were notified although serious outbreaks were reported in other parts of the country during 1950. Four cases of food poisoning were notified and the infection was due to a salmonella organism in each case.

The personal health services which are administered through the Divisional Health Committee have continued to function smoothly. The domestic help service has proved a valuable adjunct to the domiciliary midwifery and home nursing services, and from experience gained in 1949 it was decided to fix the establishment of the domestic help service at an equivalent of 45 full-time home helps. A degree of flexibility is provided, however, by maintaining a nucleus of 25 full-time home helps and employing a variable number of part-time workers.

In July, two of the three Day Nurseries were provisionally recognised by the Ministry of Health as suitable for the training of students for the Certificate of the National Nursery Examination Board. Practical training in the care and development of the young child is given at the nurseries, and arrangements have been made with the Luton Divisional Executive for Education for six nursery students to attend a course of further education in vocational and general subjects at the North Bedfordshire College. The course of training covers a period of two years, and instruction is given in English literature, music, health and hygiene, needlework, self-expression, etc.

Towards the end of the year arrangements were in hand for providing in 1951 accommodation for infant welfare sessions on the new housing estate at Farley Hill. These sessions will be held in a temporary structure of the Nissen type which has been taken over by the 'Tenants' Association as a Community Centre. This is certainly a far cry from the health centre which was envisaged three years ago, and it is a matter for regret that economic necessity has delayed the construction of a permanent building where health and welfare services could function efficiently.

Considerable anxiety is felt at the present time regarding the increasing

difficulty that is being experienced in recruiting new staff to replace those who have resigned to take up new appointments. In December, Dr. William Edgar, who had been Assistant Medical Officer for two years, resigned his appointment. Advertisement of the vacancy failed to bring forward any male applicants.

Recruitment of district sanitary inspectors has also become more difficult and, in consequence, those members of the staff who remain have had to take on additional duties. I wish, therefore, to place on record my gratitude to the entire staff of the department who without exception have worked hard to maintain the efficiency of the service. I should like also, to thank my colleagues in other departments for the advice and assistance they have given me in an effort to solve my staffing problems.

Finally, I should like to thank the members of the Council, the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, who by their patience and understanding have made easier the tasks of my first year of office.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. DYKES,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (from 1st April, 1939)	8,736 acres
Population (Census, 1931)	68,523
Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-1950 (Provisional)	110,000
Number of inhabited houses, 1st April, 1950	29,789
Rateable value (1st April, 1950) unreduced	£894,439
Rateable value (1st April, 1950) reduced	£775,390
Sum represented by Penny Rate (est. 1950-51)	£3,150

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notified live births	Legitimate	...	...	959	935	1,894
	Illegitimate	...	...	37	44	81
	All	...	...	996	979	1,975
Notified stillbirths	Legitimate	...	...	35	29	64
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
	All	...	...	35	29	64
Total Live and Stillbirths (Notified)			...	1,031	1,008	2,039
Registered live births*...			... ..	...	...	1,739
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (provisional) 15.8						
Registered still births*			... ..	...	...	47
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births*			...	...	...	26.3
				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Registered Deaths*			... ..	550	491	1,041
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (provisional)			...	...	...	9.5
Death from Puerperal Causes :—						

			<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 registered total births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal causes	1	0.6	1	0.6
Total	1	0.6	1	0.6

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 registered live births (provisional) ...	22
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births (provisional) ...	21
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births (provisional)	53

* Corrected for inward and outward transfers.

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950**

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns)
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

(Gummed slip to follow)

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1940-1950

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	LIVE BIRTHS		STILLBIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
		Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated popula- tion	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated popula- tion	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks —12 months	TOTAL	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
1940	99,440	1,543	15.0	35	21.3	1,128	11.3	40	42	82	53	—	2	2	1.21
1941	103,990	1,440	13.9	47	31.6	1,036	10.0	38	36	74	49	—	2	2	1.29
1942	101,600	1,820	18.0	69	36.5	998	9.8	42	39	81	44	—	1	1	0.52
1943	98,950	1,902	19.2	60	30.6	994	10.0	41	39	80	42	2	5	7	3.56
1944	100,640	2,282	22.7	58	24.8	1,040	10.3	40	43	83	36	—	3	3	1.3
1945	100,600	1,905	18.9	52	26.6	960	9.5	34	28	62	33	1	2	3	1.5
1946	105,220	2,096	19.9	71	32.8	1,019	9.6	51	20	71	34	2	1	3	1.4
1947	108,250	2,303	21.3	50	21.2	1,036	9.5	47	38	85	37	1	—	1	0.42
1948	108,400	1,902	17.5	40	20.6	989	9.1	27	27	54	28	—	2	2	1.03
1949	109,240	1,821	16.7	49	26.2	1,064	9.7	32	16	48	26	—	1	1	0.5
1950	110,000	1,739	15.8	47	26.3	1,041	9.5	21	17	38	22	—	1	1	0.6

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED LIVE BIRTHS AS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENT

(Corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers)

Year	Institutional			Domiciliary				Grand Total
	Maternity Hospital Units	Private Nursing Homes	Total	District Mid-wives	Private Mid-wives	Doctors and Parents	Total	
1945	1,002	384	1,386	407	50	62	519	1,905
1946	1,153	451	1,604	397	—	95	492	2,096
1947	1,198	455	1,653	571	—	79	650	2,303
1948	1,154	285	1,439	402	—	61	463	1,902
1949	1,151	191	1,342	423	—	56	479	1,821
1950	923	188	1,111	612	—	16	628	1,739

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED STILLBIRTHS AS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL AND DOMICILIARY CONFINEMENT

(Corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers)

Cause				Maternity Hospital Units	Private Nursing Home	Domiciliary	Grand Total
Maternal Toxaemia	...	...	...	4	2	3	9
Chronic Maternal Disease	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
Foetal malformation	...	...	...	3	3	1	7
Prematurity	...	...	...	7	—	—	7
Complications of labour	...	...	...	9	1	2	12
Other	...	...	...	7	1	3	11
Total	...	...	...	31	7	9	47

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

(a) Number of cases notified during the year	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Number of cases visited by officers of the Council	...	...	...	...	3
(c) Number of cases removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	1
(d) Number of cases for whom home nursing was provided	...	...	...	...	1
(e) Number of cases in which vision was impaired	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1950

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	6	4	4	1
2. Tuberculosis—Other forms	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilis	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
4. Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Scarlet Fever and Strep. Sore-throat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Typhus and Rickettsial Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carried forward	31	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	3	7	6	6	1

DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1950 (continued)

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
Brought forward	31	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	3	7	6	6	1
17. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
18. Malignant Neoplasms Lymph and Haematopoietic tissues	171	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	11	32	43	49	33
19. Benign and Unspec. Neoplasms	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
20. Diabetes Mellitus	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4
21. Anaemias	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
22. Vascular Lesions	125	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	5	15	38	62
23. Non-Meningococcol Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
24. Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	4	3	—	—
26. Arteriosclerotic and Degen. Heart	282	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	10	51	84	129
27. Other Diseases of Heart	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	8	6
28. Hypertension with Heart Disease	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	13	5
29. Hypertension without Heart Disease	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	8	7
30. Influenza	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	1	—
31. Pneumonia	42	1	6	7	1	—	1	1	—	—	5	4	9	14
32. Bronchitis	45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	11	16	14
33. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	6	4
Carried forward	815	1	7	8	2	—	3	7	8	39	75	151	242	280

DEATHS OF LUTON RESIDENTS DURING THE YEAR 1950 (continued)

CAUSE OF DEATH	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	1 month to 1 year	Total under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+
Brought forward ...	815	1	7	8	2	—	3	7	8	39	75	151	242	280
34. Appendicitis ...	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
34. Intest. Obstruc. and Hernia ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3
36. Gastritis Ent. and Diarrhoea ...	4	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
37. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	13	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	2	4
39. Hyperphasia of Prostate ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3
40. Pregnancy—Birth and Abortion...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
41. Congenital Malformations ...	12	6	5	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
42. Birth Injury Asphyxia. Atelectasis ...	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
43. Infections of Newborn ...	5	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
44. Immaturity—Other Diseases ...	7	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45. Senility ...	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	58
46. All Other Diseases ...	57	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	6	3	12	15	18
47. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	14	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	—	1
48. All Other Accidents ...	15	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	4	—	5
49. Suicide ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	6	1	—
50. Homicide and Oper. of War ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1,041	21	17	38	7	4	4	12	20	49	82	179	274	372

DEATHS OF LUTON INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE DURING 1950

Cause of Death	under 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7 days	14 days	21 to 28 days	28 days to 2 m'ths	2 m'ths	3 m'ths	4 m'ths	5 m'ths	6 m'ths	7 m'ths	8 m'ths	9 m'ths	10 m'ths	11 to 12 m'ths	All
Malig. Neoplasms Lymph and Haematopoietic tissues ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	7
Gastritis Ent. and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations ...	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	11
Birth Injury Asphyxia. Atel.	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Infections of Newborn ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Immaturity—Other Diseases	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
All Other Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All Other Accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total ...	4	5	3	2	—	1	—	4	1	1	7	3	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	38

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1950, Civilian (Corrected in cases of revised diagnosis)

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	4	6	16	12	82	12	2	1	3	—	1	—	140
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	44	63	76	110	86	226	5	—	—	2	1	—	—	613
Measles	32	74	109	173	125	539	6	3	3	1	4	—	—	1,069
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	2	—	10	6	25
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	—	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	12
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	10	1	—	—	18
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	6	17
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	6
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	4
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	83	142	192	299	226	858	31	8	11	24	10	22	13	1,919

TUBERCULOSIS

Whilst there has been an increase of 36 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis over the previous year, the number of deaths from this disease has been halved.

PARTICULARS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ALL DEATHS FROM THE DISEASE DURING 1950

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 years ...	8	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 „ ...	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ ...	6	12	—	—	—	—	1	—
20 „ ...	10	13	—	3	—	1	2	1
25 „ ...	37	21	2	—	—	1	—	1
35 „ ...	11	7	—	—	1	2	—	—
45 „ ...	21	3	1	1	3	3	—	—
55 „ ...	14	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
65+ ...	1	3	—	—	4	1	—	—
Totals ...	115	67	5	5	11	9	3	2

The following comparative table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified in Luton during each of the last five years together with the number of deaths :—

Year	Notified		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1946 ...	141	27	59	5
1947 ...	148	24	46	12
1948 ...	154	21	46	5
1949 ...	146	22	49	3
1950 ...	182	10	20	5

The following is a summary of the four quarterly returns which are rendered to the County Medical Officer and which indicates the number of cases remaining on the register at 31st December, 1950.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
No. of cases on the Register of Notifications on 1st January	577	426	140	126
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year	115	67	5	5
No. of cases transferred from other districts	12	4	—	—
No. of cases reinstated to the Register ...	1	2	—	—
No. of cases removed from the Register during the year on account of having :				
(a) recovered	43	37	16	8
(b) removed from the district	9	9	—	—
(c) died	12	9	3	2
(d) diagnosis not established	4	1	1	—
(e) lost sight of	100	62	20	24
No. of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December	537	381	105	97

BACTERIOLOGY

(By courtesy of the Director of the Medical Research Council Laboratory)
1950

Nose and Throat Swabs	904
Faeces and Urine	3,727
Sputum	625
Water	367
Milk	471
Ice cream	83
Food	10
Miscellaneous	507
Total	6,694

FOOD POISONING

No. of notifications	4
Outbreaks due to identified agents	Nil
Outbreaks of undiscovered cause	
(i) Outbreaks ... Nil Cases ...	Nil
Single cases :	
(i) Agent identified (<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>)	4
(ii) Unknown cause	Nil
Deaths	Nil

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION, Public Health Act, 1936

Name of Nursing Home	Date of Registration with Luton Borough Council	DIVISION OF BEDS			
		Maternity	Surgical	Medical	Total
Westdale ...	1.7.36	5	—	—	5
The Chase ...	3.4.46	10	—	—	10
Inglewood ...	8.2.50	4	—	—	4
Totals ...		19	—	—	19

During the year 3 women were delivered in the Westdale Nursing Home, 153 in the Chase Nursing Home, and 31 in the Inglewood Nursing Home.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Two persons who were unable to devote to themselves and who were not receiving from other persons proper care and attention were ascertained by the department. Both were removed to a suitable hospital without having recourse to the powers provided under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(a) Provision of Clinics and Centres

There was a decrease in the number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres as compared with 1949. One additional clinic was opened at St. Anne's Church in October to provide facilities for the residents in the Crawley Green Road/Ashcroft Road area, and there was an average of 44 attendances at each session during the first three months.

NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS, WEIGHINGS, ETC., AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, DURING THE YEAR 1950

	Number of Sessions	Attendances				Medical Officer's Consultations	
		0-1 years		1-5 years		Under 1 year	1-5 years
		1st	Sub.	1st	Sub.		
Dallow Road ...	48	207	2,680	9	629	607	221
Stopsley ...	51	86	1,343	16	336	276	122
Leagrave High St.	49	66	980	7	274	50	16
Leagrave Marsh Road ...	51	107	2,114	10	559	409	113
Round Green ...	94	255	4,354	13	1,014	930	342
Castle Street ...	104	272	4,418	21	902	574	177
Beechwood ...	100	235	3,738	46	1,028	628	181
Limbury ...	102	175	3,135	10	747	517	215
St. Anne's ...	12	20	394	4	107	91	44
	611	1,423	23,156	136	5,596	4,082	1,431

The number of children attending the Infant Welfare Centres for the first time expressed as a percentage of the number of births registered during each of the last five years was as follows :—

1946	...	...	...	85.3	per cent.
1947	...	...	...	85.7	„ „
1948	...	...	...	85.9	„ „
1949	...	...	...	89.0	„ „
1950	...	...	...	82.5	„ „

(b) Premature Infants

A premature infant is defined as one weighing less than 5½ lbs. at birth. The term includes, therefore, somewhat small, but healthy babies who require little more than ordinary care and management, and, on the other hand, infants who are so small that they have little chance of surviving however much care they are given.

Between these extremes are infants who, with expert attention, have a good chance of becoming healthy, vigorous babies, but who would probably not survive the ordinary rigours of early life which the normal baby meets without harm.

Special arrangements for the care of premature infants in their homes are made within the midwifery service, and infants who cannot be cared for at home are admitted to hospital.

Premature births which were notified during the year are analysed below according to place of birth, and birthweight.

PREMATURE INFANTS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO BIRTH WEIGHT

	Under 2 lbs.	2-3 lbs.	3-4 lbs.	4-5 lbs.	5-5½ lbs.	Weight not Recorded	All
Number	1	5	15	32	47	3	103
No. surviving after 24 hours ...	—	2	15	31	47	3	98
No. surviving at 4 weeks* ...	—	2	11	27	47	2	89

* Compiled January 28th, 1951.

Premature Infants according to Place of Birth.

Notified.

Born in Maternity Institutions :

(a) Under control of North-West Regional Hospital Board 79

(b) Other 8

Born at home 16

Total 103

Registered.

Born in Maternity Institutions :

(a) Under control of North-West Regional Hospital Board 55

(b) Other 8

Born at home 16

Total 79

(c) Contraceptive Clinic

All patients are referred to the contraceptive clinic by a medical practitioner.

Thirty-six sessions were held during the year and there were 178 new patients. Subsequent attendances amounted to 473.

(d) Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic Clinics

Children under the age of five years requiring Orthopaedic or Ophthalmic treatment are referred to the ordinary school clinic sessions.

The figures for 1950 show a slight decrease compared with those for 1949.

(i) Orthopaedic Clinic (children under 5 years)

New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Old cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Classification :								
Anterior poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Genu Valgum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Genu Varum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pes Varus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Metatarsus Varus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Talipes calcarneus Varus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

(ii) Ophthalmic Clinic (children under 5 years)

New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Old cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	269
Defects found :								
Squint	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Prescriptions issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

(e) Dental Clinic

None held.

(f) Day Nurseries

Three Day Nurseries are maintained, providing accommodation for 165 children.

	<i>Manor Road</i>	<i>Alder Crescent</i>	<i>Stopsley</i>
No. of Children on Register 1.1.50	52	67	44
No. of Children added to Register ...	90	94	59
No. of Children removed from Register	78	79	56
No. of Children remaining on Register 31.12.50	64	82	47
No. of Children on waiting list 31.12.50	16	5	6
No. of Sessions	568	566	568
Attendances—0-2 years	5,445	4,626	3,280
2-5 years	17,372	21,489	13,284
Total attendances	22,817	26,115	16,564
Average daily attendances (Monday-Friday)	46	53	34



THE TRAINING OF PUPIL MIDWIVES



THE TRAINING OF NURSERY STUDENTS

The day nurseries fulfil a social need at the present time.

Reason for admission of children :							<i>No. of children</i>
Illness of parent(s)	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Hospital confinement of mother	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Illegitimacy	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Children of widows/widowers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Parents separated	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Father in H.M. Forces	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Debilitated children	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Adverse housing conditions, poor financial circumstances, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	54

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

Midwifery Service

The establishment for this service provides for a Supervisor of Midwives and eight domiciliary midwives. There was a marked increase in the number of domiciliary confinements over previous years which was due in part to the regrouping of the Maternity Hospital accommodation and in part to a decrease in nursing home confinements. For some years the establishment had been deficient of one midwife, but during the year it was necessary, not only to fill this vacancy, but also to increase the establishment from eight to nine midwives. No additional appointment, however, had been made by the end of the year.

The following table shows the work of the domiciliary midwives during the year. For comparative purposes, the figures for 1949 are shown in parenthesis.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Number of Confinements.

				<i>Acting as Midwife</i>	<i>Acting as Maternity Nurse</i>	<i>Total</i>
1946	...	...	...	248	147	395
1947	...	...	...	338	230	568
1948	...	...	...	207	194	401
1949	...	...	...	143	273	416
1950	...	...	...	211	401	612

Administration of Gas and Air Analgesia by :

(a) Midwives...	...	125 (70)			
(b) Maternity nurses...	...	123 (42)	Total	...	248 (112)

Number of maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	— (—)
Number of infantile deaths	...	...	...	...	1 (1)
Number of visits paid by midwives	...	...	...	18,458	(13,311)
Total attendances of patients at midwives' clinics	...	...	...	2,366	(1,905)

Attendances of patients at consultant clinics :

(a) Ante-natal	...	...	515 (395)		
(b) Post-natal	...	...	55 (43)	Total	570 (438)

SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES

Routine inspection visits	...	...	...	...	...	2
Special enquiry visits in respect of notifications :						
(a) Medical help	...	...	...	...	...	47
(b) Stillbirths...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Deaths occurring in practice	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	3
(e) Laying out the dead	...	...	...	...	...	—
(f) To supervise disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other visits :						
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maternal deaths	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nursing mothers	...	...	...	...	...	44
Labour visits	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	...	32
Administration of Gas and Air Analgesia	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	160
Administration	...	...	...	...	...	849
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1,138
<hr/>						
Ante-Natal Clinics attended	...	...	...	...	...	152

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM MIDWIVES DURING THE YEAR 1950

	Nursing Homes	Domi- ciliary Midwives	Maternity Hospital and Extension	Inde- pendent Practice	Total
(a) Intention to practice ...	8	9	22	1	40
(b) Intention to cease prac- tice	3	1	—	—	4
(c) Change of address ...	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Change of name ...	—	—	1	—	1
(e) Sending for medical help	—	55	—	—	55
(f) Stillbirths occurring in practice	6	8	—	—	14
(g) Deaths occurring in practice—					
(i) Mothers	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Infants	—	1	—	—	1
(h) Laying out the dead ...	—	4	—	—	4
(i) Liability to be a source of infection	—	5	—	—	5
(j) Substitution of artificial feeding	6	24	—	—	30

Distribution of Midwives, December 31st, 1950.

(a) In Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	5
(b) Domiciliary Midwives	...	...	...	8
(c) Maternity Hospital and Ext.	...	...	...	22
(d) Private Practice (Independent)	...	...	...	1

Luton is recognised as a training school for Part II midwives, and during the year 28 pupil midwives undertook their domiciliary training as required by the Central Midwives Board.

Medical Aid.

During the year medical aid was sought in 55 of the midwives' cases.

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

The establishment provides for one superintendent health visitor and ten health visitors. The strength during the year, however, was one superintendent health visitor, six full-time health visitors and one part-time health visitor. It was accordingly necessary to relieve health visitors of their duties in connection with school medical inspections and this part of their work was undertaken by State Registered nurses.

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

	Children under 1 year		Children 1-5 years		Expectant Mothers		Special Visits Infectious Disease, etc.	Infant Life Protection	Total Visits
	First Visits	Re-Visits	First Visits	Re-Visits	First Visits	Re-Visits			
1942 ...	2,203	5,698	273	7,765	—	56	8,665	65	24,725
1943 ...	1,986	8,594	45	8,603	—	238	4,997	203	24,666
1944 ...	2,760	7,981	173	7,451	—	171	3,980	288	22,804
1945 ...	2,608	6,233	183	8,399	—	66	3,417	489	21,395
1946 ...	2,394	4,948	181	7,744	60	19	4,352	250	19,948
1947 ...	2,832	4,194	359	7,072	68	—	4,439	119	19,083
1948 ...	2,167	3,780	224	7,037	41	—	4,386	122	17,757
1949 ...	2,013	3,794	316	8,008	39	—	3,122	117	17,409
1950 ...	1,748	3,274	175	7,987	2	—	4,473	169	17,828

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

During the year 1950 the Inspectors were responsible for dealing with 28 cases on behalf of the Department.

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING SERVICES

The Division is divided into eight districts for home nursing purposes. One nurse is allocated to each district and a relief nurse is also employed. One nurse resigned in October and it was not possible to fill the vacancy by the end of the year.

Cases are referred direct to the district nurses by hospitals, general practitioners, etc., and the nurses work under the direction of the family doctor. Nursing requisites and sick room equipment for patients nursed at home are provided through the Home Comforts Depot of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and during the year 1,003 articles were loaned out, an increase of 200 over 1949.

NUMBER OF CASES ATTENDED

Type of Case	District								All
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Acute medical ...	44	38	20	32	42	65	43	36	320
Chronic medical	45	47	65	47	68	43	48	60	423
Surgical ...	30	27	26	22	32	31	21	30	219
Infectious disease	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Abortion ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Other ...	6	2	7	2	32	7	4	—	60
Totals ...	128	114	120	103	174	146	116	126	1,027

NUMBER OF VISITS

Type of Case	District								All
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Acute Medical ...	267	167	162	139	242	799	498	245	2,519
Chronic Medical	2,262	1,950	1,526	2,302	1,447	1,197	2,888	2,754	16,326
Surgical ...	679	936	753	604	725	640	754	307	5,398
Infectious Disease	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Abortion ...	13	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	15
Other ...	11	8	58	8	53	31	7	—	176
Totals ...	3,232	3,061	2,503	3,053	2,467	2,667	4,147	3,306	24,436

CASES ATTENDED BY TYPE, AGE AND SEX

Type of Case	Male						Female						All
	Ages in years						Ages in years						
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
Acute Medical	6	11	6	18	49	45	9	14	10	31	49	72	320
Chronic Medical	1	1	1	17	34	80	—	1	5	24	49	210	423
Surgical...	13	4	3	14	23	53	2	4	3	23	34	43	219
Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Other ...	1	1	1	7	5	2	—	2	4	7	9	21	60
Totals ...	21	17	11	56	111	180	11	21	23	89	141	346	1,027

DURATION OF NURSING CARE (Completed cases only)

Type of Case	7 days or less	8-28 days	1-3 months	3-6 months	Over 6 m'ths	All
Acute Medical	190	69	24	5	—	288
Chronic Medical	58	98	92	24	40	312
Surgical	58	46	33	14	10	161
Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—	1	1
Abortion	2	2	—	—	—	4
Other	35	8	—	—	1	44
Totals	343	223	149	43	52	810

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination.

Vaccination in the normal way is carried out entirely by the family doctor. The figures for 1950 show an increase of 123 in respect of primary vaccinations and 88 for re-vaccination.

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary vaccination ...	269	61	66	138	534
Re-vaccination	—	1	23	172	196
Totals	269	62	89	310	730

Immunisation.

Children are immunised either at immunisation clinics or by arrangement with private practitioners. There was a decrease of 547 immunisations as compared with 1949. This was due to a temporary suspension of immunisations during the months of August, September and October.

Number of clinics held	12
Total number of attendances	1,376
Number of children who have completed course	548
Number of children immunised by general practitioners	900
Number of children immunised at nurseries	21
Total number immunised	1,469
Number of re-inforcing sessions at schools	12
Re-inforcing courses	931

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1950.

(According to Health Department Records)

Age at 31.12.50	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	Total under 15
Number Immunised	427	1,774	798	1,715	1,245	5,143	5,484	16,586
Estimated mid-year population, 1950	8,972					15,110		24,082

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years</i>
Estimated percentage of the child population immunised at 31st December, 1950 ...	66.3%	70.3%
(a) Number of cases of diphtheria in children under 15 years of age notified during the year	0	
(b) Number of cases included in (a) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease	0	
(c) Number of deaths from diphtheria registered in the Authority's area during the year, of children under 15 years of age ...	0	
(d) Number of deaths included in (c) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease	0	

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

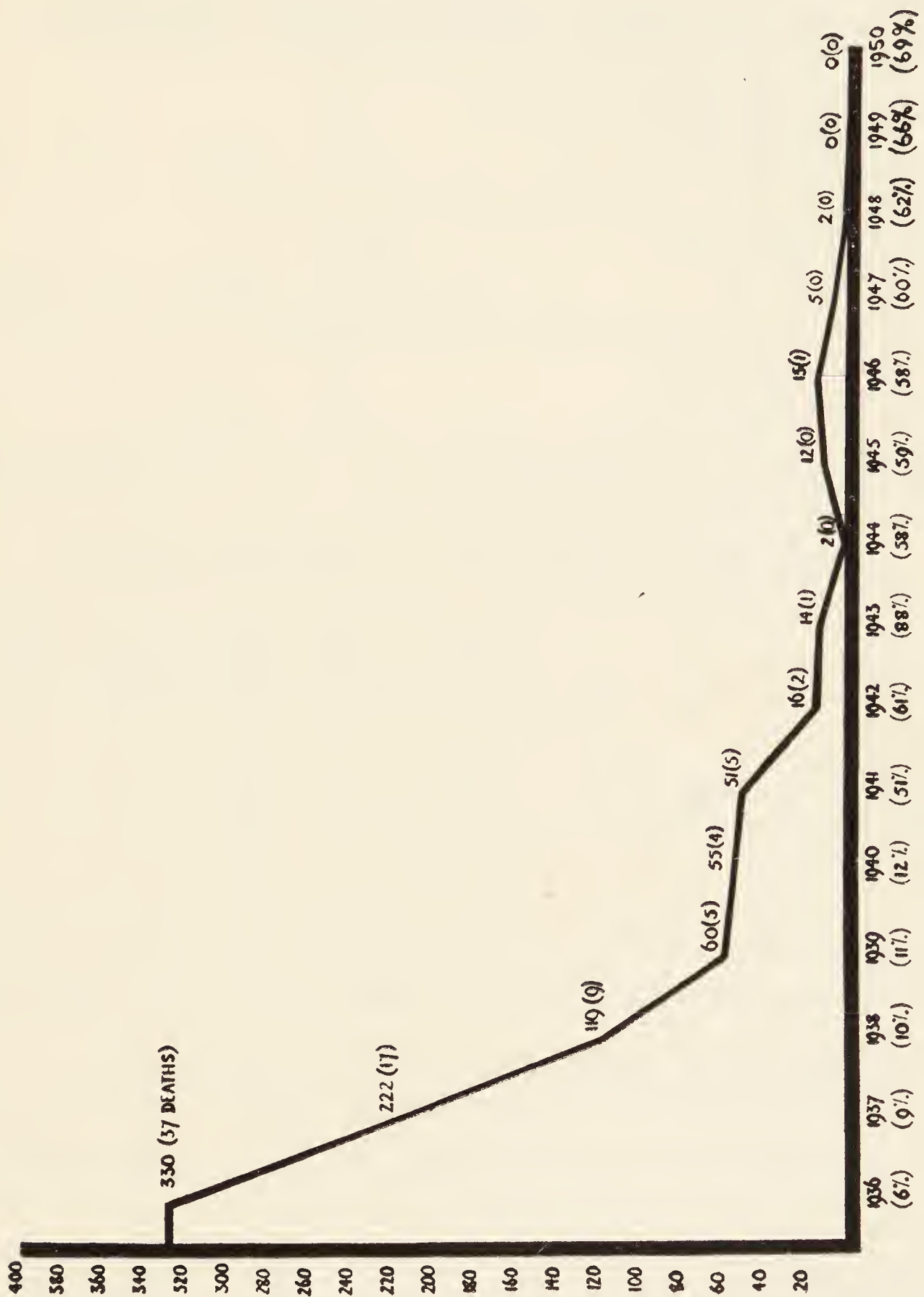
The Divisional Health Committee's functions in this connection have been limited to arranging convalescent facilities for mothers and young children. Arrangements are made through the Invalid Children's Aid Association and during the year two children were sent for convalescence.

SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The demands made upon the Domestic Help Service continue to be heavy. Although during 1950 fewer home helps were employed than during 1949, more householders received assistance, and the number of hours of assistance provided increased from 74,929 in 1949 to 81,483 in 1950.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

GRAPH SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF IMMUNISED POPULATION 0-15 YEARS TOGETHER WITH INCIDENCE, AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA



There is an ever-increasing demand from old people and chronic sick who require assistance for an indefinite period often lasting many months. Every effort, however, is made to meet their needs.

Number of full-time home helps on books at December 31st, 1950 25

Number of part-time home helps on books at December 31st, 1950 45

Number of householders helped during the year :

(a) Maternity cases	...	...	149		
(b) Tuberculous cases	...	...	27		
(c) Other cases	...	...	499	Total	...
					675

Number of hours of assistance provided during the year :

(a) Maternity cases	...	...	9,176		
(b) Other cases	...	...	72,307	Total	...
					81,483

Number of cases in which full fee was not charged :

(a) Maternity cases	...	...	56		
(b) Tuberculous cases	...	...	10		
(c) Other cases	...	...	150	Total	...
					216

Cost to local authority of assessed cases £3,009 7s. 1d.

AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WEEKLY

Type of Case	Up to 8 hours	8-12 hours	12-20 hours	20-30 hours	Over 30 hours
Maternity	15	15	30	49	40
T.B.	14	5	2	5	1
Chronic Illness	73	31	29	2	1
Hospital, or Ex-Hospital	42	24	20	1	4
Emergency, or other Illness	47	31	22	7	3
Aged Persons	106	28	19	7	2
Total	297	134	122	71	51
Percentage of whole	44%	19%	18%	11%	8%

LENGTH OF TIME ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Type of Case	Up to 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	Over 6 months
Maternity	135	14	—	—
T.B.	4	14	7	2
Chronic Illness	29	49	38	20
Hospital, or Ex-Hospital	47	28	14	2
Emergency, or Other Illness	75	29	6	—
Aged Persons	30	46	42	44
Total	320	180	107	68
Percentage of whole	47%	27%	16%	10%

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,

LUTON.

February, 1951.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The maintenance of good sanitary conditions throughout the town depends very largely on the efficiency of the routine work of the staff of the department, and, with the exception of those circumstances where a marked improvement has been noted or where changes are considered desirable, there are very few matters which call for special mention.

One of the services which has always been regarded as of primary importance is meat inspection. It ensures not only that no diseased meat leaves the slaughterhouse, but also that the greatest amount of sound meat is saved. The full efficiency of this service has necessitated nearly 1,000 hours of overtime duty by sanitary inspectors during the year. In January, seventeen applications for the renewal of slaughterhouse licences were submitted to the Council, who, after careful consideration of a detailed report on each of the premises, decided that only two licences could be granted. The unsuitability of the slaughterhouses in the town was clearly demonstrated when the Council refused to grant a licence to one of the three existing slaughterhouses all of which were, at that time, being used to their full capacity. This decision of the Council was, on appeal, upheld in the Magistrates' Court. Towards the end of the year the Council made representation to the Ministry of Food to be allowed to provide a public abattoir and it is pleasing to report that the Minister agreed to the preparation of a scheme for Luton. There is unquestionably an urgent need in the town for better facilities for the slaughter of animals and the transport of meat. When an abattoir is provided and all meat vans are fitted with hanging rails, the risk of contamination of meat will be considerably reduced.

During the year frequent visits have been made to all premises where food is prepared or handled. One specialist inspector responsible for food hygiene regularly visits all restaurants, cafes, factory canteens and school meals canteens, and advises their staffs on food hygiene. In June a Clean Food Exhibition was held. This exhibition demonstrated the dangers of lack of care in the handling of food, and introduced to food traders and the general public the new food byelaws which have been adopted by the Council.

Approximately 97.5% of the milk consumed in the Borough is heat-treated milk, i.e., it is either pasteurised or sterilised. A half of one per cent. is designated raw milk, i.e., tuberculin tested milk, and the remaining 2% is undesignated raw milk. Samples taken throughout the year of undesignated raw milk have failed to reveal the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Four hundred and thirty-one samples of heat-treated milk were taken to test the efficiency of the heating process. Twenty-two (5%) of the samples failed the test and in these cases the pasteurising plants were examined and the defects in their mechanism quickly remedied.

For many years considerable anxiety has been expressed by the inhabitants of certain areas in the town regarding the amount of atmospheric pollution caused by fumes and smoke from industrial chimneys. Accordingly, on April 1st, deposit gauges, lead peroxide instruments and a smoke filter were installed at two points in the town, and it is hoped that the information gained from them will be of material assistance in our efforts to obtain a solution to the smoke problems in Luton.

During the year 373 new houses were built by the Corporation and an additional 52 were built under private licence. On the debit side, however, 15 houses were demolished or part closed and 16 families had to be rehoused as a result of this action. For some time it has been felt that more could be done to improve the bad conditions of many of the older houses, and it was with this in mind that the Council recently gave consideration to a proposed survey of older property. Unfortunately the recruitment of new sanitary inspectors to replace those who have resigned to take other appointments has become increasingly difficult, but it is hoped, nevertheless, that it will be possible to undertake this survey in 1951.

In conclusion, I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and Officers of the Corporation for their advice and friendly co-operation. I should also like to thank my Deputy and District Inspectors and Staff for their ready and loyal assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. F. MACEFIELD,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

GENERAL.

Luton which has an area of 8,736 acres, is situated in a valley between the Chiltern Hills at 200 to 400 feet above sea level in the town, rising to 400 to 600 feet above sea level on the surrounding hills. It is mainly built upon the upper chalk, with loam and clay deposits.

Meteorology.—The Luton Meteorological Station, which is under the control of the Borough Engineer, is situated in Wardown Park, New Bedford Road, from which the following observations were taken :—

Sunshine.—1,170.3 hours of sunshine were recorded during the year, the sunniest day being 29th June, 1950, when 14.4 hours were recorded.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall recorded during the year was 27.40 inches the wettest day being 3rd July, 1950, when 1.41 inches of rain were recorded.

Temperatures.—The maximum temperature during the year was 87° F., recorded on 7th June, 1950, and the minimum temperature was 22° F., recorded on 28th October and 5th, 6th, 15th and 21st December, 1950. The mean temperature for the year was 48.70° F.

Wind.—The prevailing wind during the year was West.

WATER SUPPLY.

Luton has an abundant supply of excellent water which is distributed throughout the Borough by the Luton Water Company, and is derived from deep wells in the chalk situated in Crescent Road and Runley Wood. Chlorination of the supply is carried out, the average amount of chlorine pumped into the supply being 0.25 parts per million.

From information received from the Luton Water Company, the total amount of water, supplied during the year ended 31st December, 1950, was 1,664,381,490 gallons. Assuming a population of 110,000 the total number of gallons used per head per day was approximately 41, an average of 18 gallons per head per day for industrial purposes, and 23 gallons per head per day for domestic use.

The following information, concerning the plumbo-solvency of the water, is supplied by the Luton Water Company :—

“We are informed by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory that the water supplied from our chalk wells at Crescent Road is slightly plumbo-solvent. Tests were carried out on a length of unused lead pipe and it was found that although the percentage of lead dissolved in the water was relatively small this quantity was not reduced over a period of 14 days by any insoluble coating being formed on the inside of the pipe. In these circumstances although the quantity of lead dissolved in the water is small we are advised by the Water Pollution Research Laboratory not to use lead pipe for drinking water services. Plumbo-solvency is not usually associated with waters as hard as that supplied by this Company, but we understand that the percentage of carbon dioxide in the water is rather higher than normal which accounts for this exceptional case.

“In the past no lead service pipes have been fitted in the Borough, at any rate during the present century, and instructions to plumbers carrying out work in the area of supply have always insisted on the use of steam quality galvanised tube for all water services. However, short lengths of lead pipe connecting the galvanised pipe to wash basins or to water closet cisterns have been permitted, and it is considered that the use of such short lengths

is not a source of danger. This practice is still continued although the Company prefers the use of copper throughout the whole of the plumbing installations and the total avoidance of lead wherever possible."

In addition, the following details were given :—

" *Mainlaying*.—This work on the Farley Hill Housing Estate has virtually been completed. Other small extensions of mains have been made as requisite.

" *New Sources*.—Protracted negotiations with various authorities, notably Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire County Councils, have proceeded during the year for authority to develop a new source of supply at Friars Wash near Markyate. A draft Order was submitted to the Ministry of Health in September and a Public Inquiry was held on 17th January, 1951.

" *Byelaws*.—New Byelaws for the prevention of waste, undue consumption, misuse and contamination of water, based upon the Ministry of Health's latest model, were confirmed by the Ministry on 31st January, 1950, and came into operation on the 1st March, 1950.

" *Sampling of Water*.—Weekly bacteriological examinations of all sources are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and more detailed bacteriological and chemical examinations by the Public Analyst at monthly intervals.

Possible Sources of Pollution.—Careful consideration is being given to the suggested erection of a gasworks in the Dallow Road area, from the point of view of possible contamination to the Runley Wood Pumping Station source of supply. If it is quite impossible for an alternative site to be found, very special measures will have to be taken to obviate the possibility of contamination by chloro-phenols or cresols (taste producing) or thiocyanides (toxic)."

No. of dwellings supplied from piped water mains direct to the houses ...	29,656
---	--------

No. of dwellings supplied from piped water mains to standpipes ...	130
--	-----

No. of dwellings supplied from wells ...	3
--	---

The following is a summary of the samples of drinking water taken during the year from all sources :

Number of samples of water examined by the Public Analyst ...	4
---	---

Number of samples of water examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service for free chlorine and Bacillus Coli	188
---	-----

Total	192
-------	-----

Number of samples of water obtained from :—

Crescent Road Pumping Station ...	89
-----------------------------------	----

Runley Wood Pumping Station ...	86
---------------------------------	----

Other sources ...	17
-------------------	----

— 192

Classified results of the above samples :—

Class 1—Highly satisfactory ...	184
---------------------------------	-----

Class 2—Satisfactory ...	5
--------------------------	---

Class 3—Suspicious ...	2
------------------------	---

Class 4—Unsatisfactory ...	1
----------------------------	---

— 192

(The Class 3 and 4 samples were examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The circumstances were investigated—further samples proved satisfactory).

The following is a copy of the Analyst's latest report on the mains supply (taken 15th November, 1950):

No. 1/50 Crescent Road, chlorinated.
 No. 2/50 Runley Wood, chlorinated.
 No. 3/50 Runley Wood, unchlorinated.

Chemical Analysis

					<i>Parts per 100,000</i>		
					1/50	2/50	3/50
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	...	...	0.025	0.027	0.036
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	nil	nil	nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.659	0.370	0.370
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	2.1	1.6	1.6
Hardness, Total	...	...	...	...	33.6	35.0	35.0
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...	...	7.6	8.5	8.5
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	46.0	47.0	46.0
pH Value	...	...	...	...	7.1	7.1	7.2
Free Chlorine (parts per million)	...	...	...	...	nil	0.1	nil
Sulphate as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	nil	7.4	7.4
Barium as Ba	...	...	...	...	nil	nil	nil

All three samples were clear and free from smell.

A microscopic examination revealed the presence of some mineral and vegetable fragments in all samples.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of organisms per c.c. growing at							
20° C. in 3 days	...	...	...	...	2	2	3
Liquefying organisms	...	...	...	...	1	nil	3
Number of organisms per c.c. growing at							
37° C. in 48 hours	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Bacillus coli	...	...	...	...	Absent	Absent	Absent
					from	from	from
					100 c.c.	100 c.c.	100 c.c.

Opinion

These three samples are in good condition and may be considered suitable for dietetic use.

Investigations of Water Sources other than Drinking Supplies

Twelve samples of water were taken from various sources in the course of public health investigations. They were submitted to the appropriate bodies for examination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The drainage of the Borough is on the separate system, except in the Stopsley area and the old part of the Borough where it is combined.

The soil water sewage is dealt with at the New Mill End Sewage Purification Works by sedimentation and bio-aeration. The sludge is treated with lime, dried and sold for manurial purposes. The effluent is discharged into the River Lea at New Mill End.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the number of pail closets, chemical closets and cesspools in the Borough at the end of December, 1950 :

Pail closets	...	...	...	...	19
Chemical closets	...	...	...	...	24
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	164

Three cesspools were abolished, and two constructed during the year.

All pail closets are emptied either once or twice weekly between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Cesspools are emptied by means of mechanical plant as and when required. Five hundred and seventy-five emptyings were arranged during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1950.

PUBLIC CLEANSING—REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The following information is supplied by the Director of Public Cleansing.

The system of refuse disposal is controlled tipping. The weight of house and trade refuse disposed of during the year was 40,729 tons, 3 cwt., 2 qrs.

In spite of continuing shortages of labour (and the right kind of labour), there was a considerable improvement in the refuse collection service during the year, when a frequency of collection of seven days was maintained generally throughout the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Complaints reported to Public Health Department	...	...	1,357*
Primary Inspection :			
Where nuisances were found	...	...	1,476*
Where complaint was received and no nuisance found	...	...	68
Under Housing Acts	...	...	124
Where Infectious Disease has occurred	...	...	172
Bakehouses	...	...	103
Canteens	...	...	113
Caravans, Tents, etc.	...	...	59
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	3
Cowsheds	...	...	11
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	187
Factories	...	...	45
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	55
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	157
Food Preparing Premises (Ice Cream)	...	...	396
Food Storage Premises	...	...	83
Markets and Shops	...	...	47
Offensive Trades	...	...	1
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	246
Overcrowding	...	...	21
Public Houses	...	...	88
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	191
Slaughterhouses (for meat inspection)	...	...	1,781

* These figures do not include 608 complaints and 1,032 primary visits in connection with Rats and Mice, which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report.

Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Theatres and Amusement Halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Urinals—Public and Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

OTHER VISITS OR INSPECTIONS

Drainage. Number of drains tested or exposed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Food Inspection (excluding Slaughterhouses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	266
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	892
Investigations of Infestations of Insect pests (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Investigations of Bug Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Inspection of Fuel Appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Visits to obtain Water Samples for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	248
„ under the Food and Drugs Act, for samples, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	587
„ to property under notice or work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,590
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	517
Visits—No access	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	582
								<hr/> 13,671 <hr/>

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
„ repaired, trapped, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
„ unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Repairs to chambers or new covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cesspools emptied because of overflow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools replaced by water carriage system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Soil or vent pipes—new fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water closets—repaired or supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
„ „ new pans or pedestals fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ „ additional constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste Pipes—repaired or trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
„ „ or R.W.P.'s disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ R.W.P.'s and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Sinks provided or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Animals, fowls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brickwork or pointings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Damp Proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dustbins supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Fireplaces, stoves and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Flooring and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Floors—concrete or quarried repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Gas fittings or services repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Gullies in street unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	285
Rats and mice infestations abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	938
Rent Books made to comply with Regulations of Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs made watertight	...	...	...	...	...	...	258
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water supplies reinstated or made sufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Wells disused made safe	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Windows—Cords, fasteners and glass repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Premises treated against insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Verminous rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	224
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ventilation—sub-floor provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Yards and passages paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,483

STATUTORY NOTICES.

NUMBER OF LEGAL NOTICES ISSUED FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

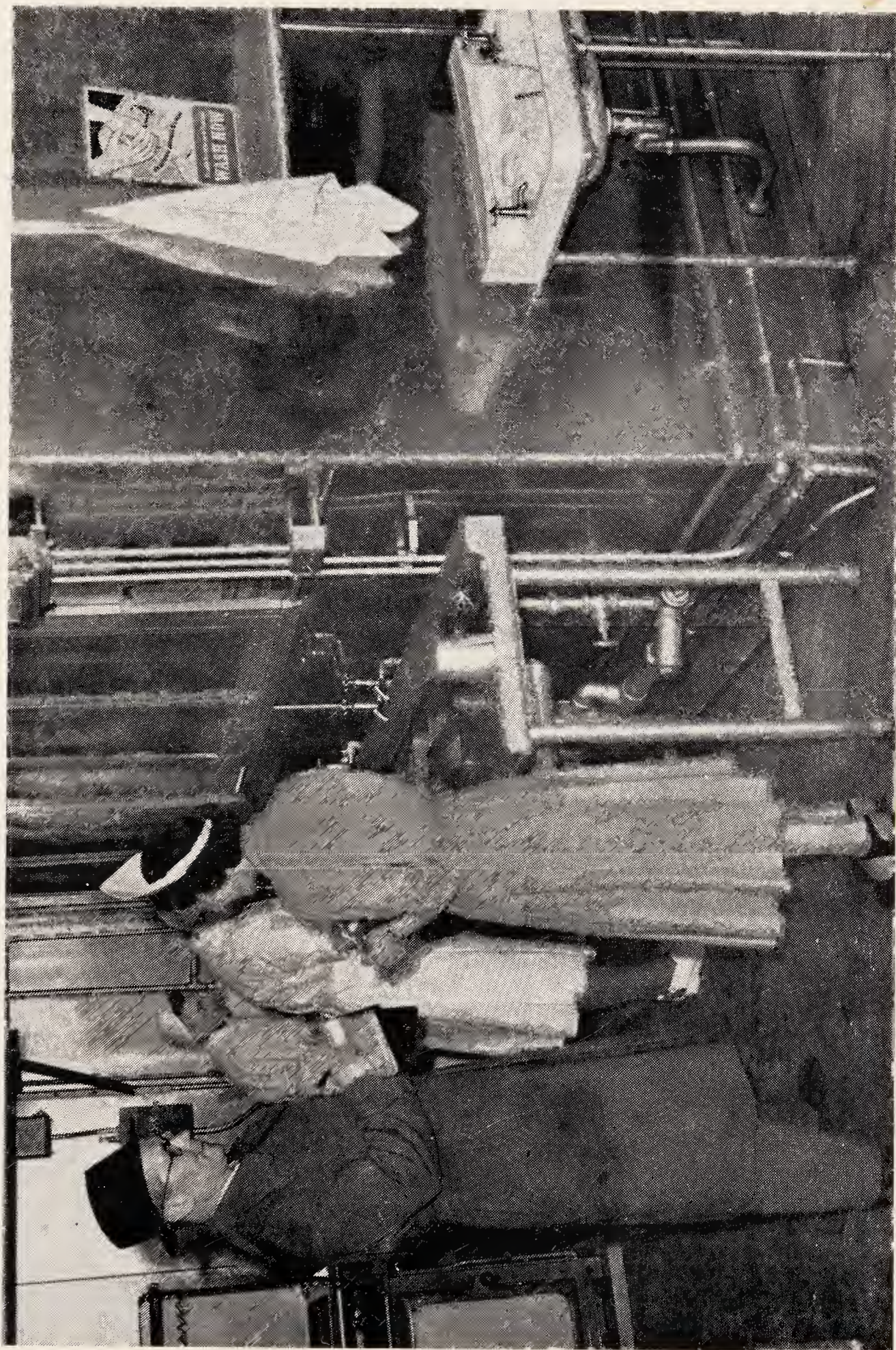
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>
Number of Outstanding Notices, 31st Dec., 1949	23	23
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 39	29	22
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 45	14	9
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 56	1	1
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 93	42	31
Luton Corporation Act, 1911. Section 36	19	14
	128	100

No. of outstanding Notices at 31st December, 1950 ... 28

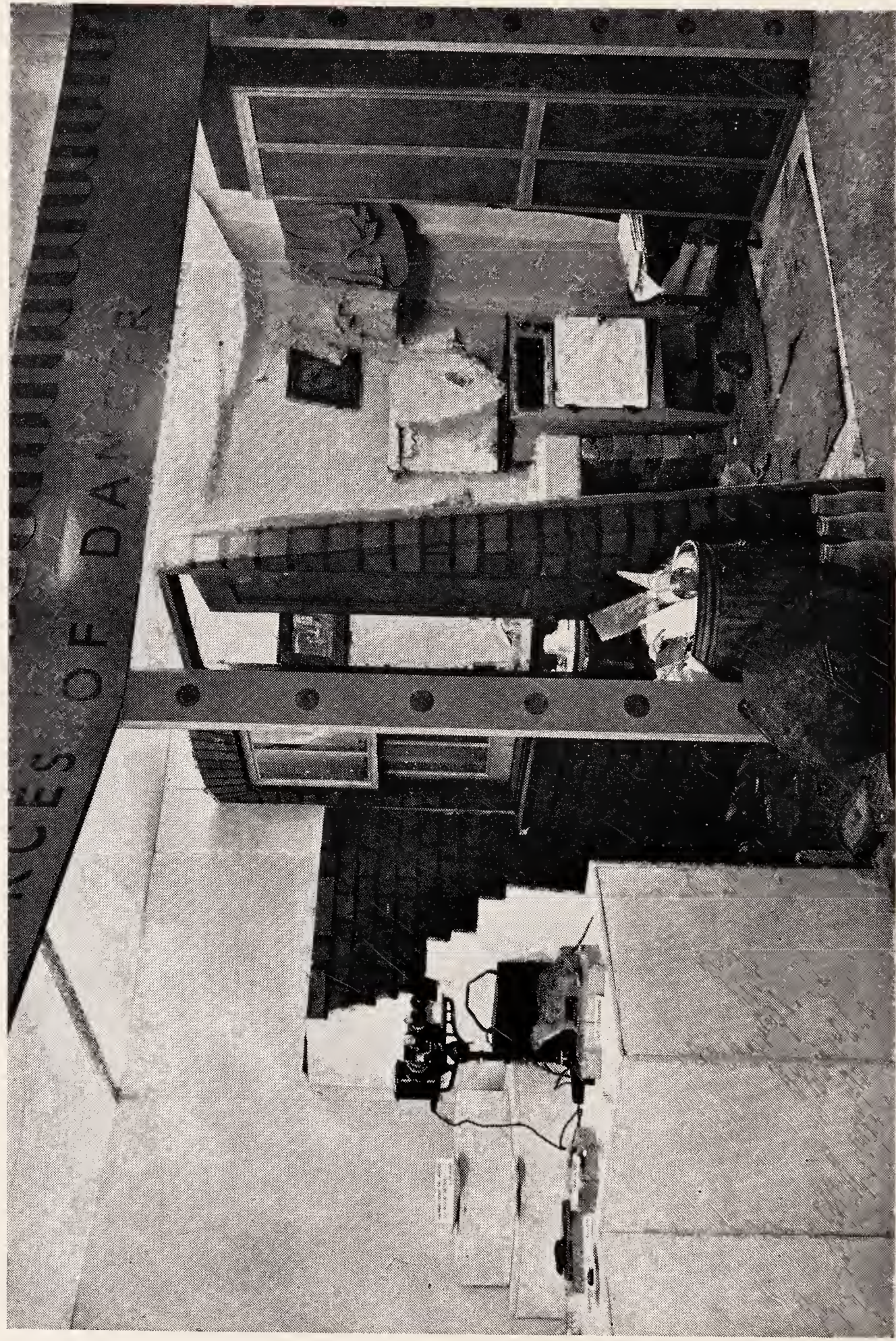
Legal proceedings were instituted in four cases in respect of non-compliance with notices issued under Section 39, Section 45 and Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Premises inspected where notifiable diseases have occurred	...	172
Cases removed to Isolation Hospital	...	43
Rooms disinfected after infectious, contagious or other disease, etc.	...	289
Premises where repairs or redecorations have been carried out after infectious diseases	...	9
Rooms where walls and ceilings were rubbed down after infectious diseases	...	101
Visits paid to ascertain if notices to repair or redecorate have been complied with	...	22
Rooms disinfected by occupiers	...	116
Premises visited tracing infectious diseases	...	204
Articles disinfected by steam at request of owners	...	136
Articles disinfected by fumigants at request of owners	...	1,163
Articles destroyed by burning at request of owners	...	126
Total visits paid to infected premises	...	398



INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES



AN EXHIBIT AT THE CLEAN FOOD EXHIBITION

DISINFECTANT.

During the year 10 gallons of disinfecting fluid were supplied to the public, free of charge, for use in premises where cases of infectious disease, etc., had occurred.

LIBRARY BOOKS.

Eight hundred and twenty-five library books were withdrawn from circulation and were disinfected before they were returned.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are two Public Swimming Baths in the Borough, both owned by the Corporation.

The Public Baths are situated in Waller Street, Luton, and consist of a covered Swimming Pool, 46 Slipper Baths (35 for men and 11 for women), and one Russian Vapour Bath. The Open Air Pool situated off New Bedford Road, Luton, caters for swimming and bathing only.

During the season of 1950 the following number of bathers attended :

					<i>Waller Street Baths</i>	<i>Open Air Swimming Pool</i>
Swimming Bath Total	...	...	...	...	70,683	70,041
Hot Baths	...	...	...	...	52,488	Nil
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>123,171</u>	<u>70,041</u>

Chloroscope examinations of the water are carried out by the attendants twice a day, and in addition, samples of the water are sent to the Public Analyst for examination each month. During the past year, reports have been very satisfactory.

THEATRES.

Inspection of Sanitary Accommodation in the Cinemas and the Theatre has been made during the year.

Minor Sanitary defects were found and attended to.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Sixty-four complaints of verminous premises were received during the year, and in all instances where bugs were found, disinfestation was carried out. The use of liquid vermicide containing DDT was relied upon for treating the infestations, and proved satisfactory. In six instances re-infestation occurred.

The following table shows the number of premises and rooms dealt with during 1950 :

	Number of Premises		Number of Rooms	
	Found to be infested	Disinfested	Found to be infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	27	27	70	70
Number of other Houses	67	67	154	154
Number of cases where disinfection has been carried out prior to removal from Clearance Areas, etc. into new Council Houses	—	—	—	—
Number of cases where disinfection has been carried out by Corporation Disinfecting Officer	93	93	223	223
Number of cases where disinfection has been carried out by Occupants or Contractors	1	1	1	1
Number of complaints of infestation received (64)	64	64	159	159
Number of cases found by Sanitary Inspectors	30	30	65	65

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

During the year the sewers received two maintenance treatments for rat infestation. The first treatment was completed in March, when 3,653 manholes were baited and 198 takes recorded. The second treatment was carried out in October, when 3,653 manholes were dealt with and 240 takes observed. It is reasonable to assume from these figures, as compared with last year, that a further reduction in the sewer infestation has occurred.

So far as dwellinghouses and business premises were concerned no noticeable decrease in infestation was observed. The proximity of rural areas no doubt accounted for a large number of re-infestations.

The Corporation Refuse Tip again received special treatment, and at no time during the year has the infestation been out of hand. In addition, other special treatment was given to certain of the larger works in the town.

An analysis of the work is detailed below :

			Com-plaints received	No. of premises involved	Treatment completed	Treatment in progress	Bodies found
Private Dwellings	Rats	...	419	745	744	1	582
	Mice	...	67	67	67	—	377
Business Premises	Rats	...	58	58	55	3	537
	Mice	...	64	73	72	1	939
Totals	Rats	...	477	803	799	4	1,119
	Mice	...	131	140	139	1	1,316

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

FACTORIES, FACTORIES (NO MECHANICAL POWER) AND
WORKPLACES.

Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
Premises inspected and found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	255
Premises inspected and found unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Factories where defects were found and referred by H.M. Inspector								9
Reports on action taken sent to H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of defects remedied as a result of H.M. Inspector's notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

LIST OF DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, FACTORIES (NO
MECHANICAL POWER) AND WORKPLACES.

Cleanliness, want of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dilapidations, General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rat or mice infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Water Closet, unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ no ventilated Lobby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ not ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ not lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ dirty condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ needing repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ without indication	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Washing facilities absent or inadequate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water supply insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								142

The Local Authority again considered the using of the five remaining basement bakehouses in the Borough, and resolved to take action to secure the closure of these premises after 31st December, 1951.

REGISTERED FACTORIES AND FACTORIES (NO MECHANICAL POWER)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a classified list of the Factories and Factories (No Mechanical Power) on the Register at 31st December, 1950.

FACTORIES.

Artificial Flowers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Ball Bearing Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beer Bottling, Coffee Roasting and Grinding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bleachers, Dyers and Felt Body Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Boiler Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Brass and Aluminium Founders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brush Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cardboard Box Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cellulose Spraying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chocolate, Cocoa and Sweet Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cigarette Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coach and Motor Body Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Corn Merchant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dry Cleaning and Dyeing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electric Appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Electrical Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Electro-Platers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Feather Dyeing and Mounting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Feather Sorting and Grading	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmonger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Felt Products	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flour Mill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
French Polishers (Cabinets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Furriers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Garment Makers and Menders and Corset Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Gas and Coke Production	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
General Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Glass Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grass Mat Maker	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hat Blockers and Blockmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Hat Lining Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Hat Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Hat Materials Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Iron Founders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Joiners, Woodworkers and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Knitted Hood Makers and Proofers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Leather Goods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Light Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Machine Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meters, Motor Car Parts Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Millinery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mineral Water Manufacturers and Brewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Motor Vehicle Engineers, Repairs and Cycle Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Optician	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paint Manufacturers, Wall Papers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pattern Makers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Photographic Printers and Developers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plastics	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Potato Crisp Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Powder Puffs, Braces, etc. Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printers and Letterpress Printers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Sausage Makers, Pie Makers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Saw Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scale Maker	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sewing Machine Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sheet Metal Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Signwriter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soap Powders Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stone Masons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors and Clothiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Tinsmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Trailer Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typewriter Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Undertakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Welders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

OUTWORKERS RETURNS.

NATURE OF WORK	OUTWORKERS LISTS Sections 110, Factories Act, 1937										Outworkers in Unwholesome Premises Section 111, Factories Act, 1937			Outwork in Infected Premises. Sec. 153, P.H.A., 1936			Lists forwarded to other Authorities				Lists received from other Authorities									
	FEBRUARY RETURNS					AUGUST RETURNS																								
	Lists received from Employers and Other Authorities			No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council		No. of Prosecutions for Failure to Supply Lists		Lists received from Employers and Other Authorities			No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council		No. of Prosecutions for Failure to Supply Lists																	
	Lists	Workmen	Contractors					Lists	Workmen	Contractors							No. of Local Authorities to whom Lists of Outworkers have been Forwarded	No. of Lists	Workmen	Contractors	No. of Local Authorities from whom Lists have been Received	No. of Lists	Workmen	Contractors						
Making, etc., Wear- ing Apparel ...	138	1,215	2	—	—	—	—	143	1,802	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Where cases have arisen work has been withheld by verbal arrangement. No separate records kept.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Artificial Flower Making ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Box Making ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Brush Making ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Button Making ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Furrier ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Lampshade Making	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	240		684	—	6	8	11	1							
Leather and Fancy Goods ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Rug Weaving ...	1	82	—	—	—	—	—	1	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Envelope Making ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—							
Totals ...	149	1,312	2	—	—	—	—	149	1,903	1	—	—	—	—	—	179	240	684	—	6	8	11	1	1						

Total number of firms employing workers ... 161
Total number of outworkers employed ... 1,627
The homes of all outworkers are visited by the Sanitary Inspectors who deal with any nuisance or other irregularities.

HOUSING.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	2,001
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	5,924
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts ...	12
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose. Visits to properties already recorded in (2) (a) ...	83
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	12
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	1,267

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	1,044
---	-------

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners ...	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	68
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners ...	66
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(3) Dwelling-houses acquired and demolished by Corporation	5

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

Housing Act, 1936.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	77
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	120
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	664
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year (30 families in 17 houses)	17
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	146
(d) Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	1
(e) (i) Number of Council houses found to be overcrowded at end of year	7
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	15
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	69
(f) Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses relieved during the year	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938—1944

MILK

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No. of persons registered as Distributors	...	...	...	145
No. of premises registered as Dairies	...	...	...	17

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.

No. of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	...	...	4
No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	25
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Pasteurised	...	...	...	3
No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Sterilised	...	...	...	139
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Sterilised	...	...	...	1

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.

No. of Dealer's Licences to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	17
No. of Supplementary Licences to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	2

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year 454 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results of which are shown in the table opposite.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Designation of Milk	Total Samples Sub- mitted	Methylene Blue Test		Samples Cancelled Statutory Minimum Temperature not reached	Per- centage Satis- factory	Phosphatase Test		Samples Cancelled Statutory Minimum Temperature not reached	Per- centage Satis- factory	Turbidity Test		Per- centage Satis- factory
		Passed	Failed			Passed	Failed			Passed	Failed	
Pasteurised ...	347	320	10	17	96.97	326	20	1	94.22	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	100
Tuberculin Tested ...	17	14	3	—	82.35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	64	58	1	5	98.31	62	2	—	96.88	—	—	—
Ungraded ...	6	1	5	—	16.67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF MILK SAMPLES.

Period	No. of Samples Examined	AVERAGES	
		Fat %	Solids not Fat %
January	7	3.56	8.78
February	19	3.57	8.98
March	14	3.51	8.90
Quarter ended 31.3.50 ...	40	3.55	8.92
April	14	3.50	8.68
May	10	3.31	8.79
June	14	3.37	8.66
Quarter ended 30.6.50 ...	38	3.34	8.72
July	11	3.96	8.87
August	8	3.34	8.82
September	8	3.60	8.87
Quarter ended 30.9.50 ...	27	3.64	8.85
October	12	3.56	8.80
November	8	3.48	9.18
December	6	3.72	8.78
Quarter ended 31.12.50 ...	26	3.53	8.90
Year ended 31.12.50 ...	131	3.52	8.86

EXAMINATION OF MILK.

SECTION 25, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Twenty-seven samples of milk were taken and tested by guinea-pig inoculation and all samples were found to be free from tubercle bacilli.

In 6 samples there was serological evidence of *Brucella abortus*, and reports were sent to the County Medical Officer of Health concerned.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WASHED
MILK BOTTLES, AND CHURNS.

Forty-two washed milk bottles were taken for examination during the year.

Twenty-nine were found to be "satisfactory" (not more than 600 bacteria per pint bottle); 7 were "fairly satisfactory" (more than 600 bacteria but less than 2,000 bacteria per pint bottle); and 6, with a count of more than 2,000 bacteria, were unsatisfactory.

In addition, 8 churn rinsings were taken for examination, 5 of which were satisfactory, 2 fairly satisfactory, and 1 unsatisfactory.

Where unsatisfactory bottles and churns were reported, the dairymen concerned were visited and advice given.

REGISTRATIONS OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD.

	Premises on Register 31st Dec. 1949	No. of Applications received during 1950	No. of Applications granted	No. of Applications granted conditional upon completion of necessary work	No. of Applications refused	No. of Premises removed during 1950	Total on Register at 31st Dec., 1950
Sale and Storage of Ice Cream	147	65	43	13	9	3	187
Manufacture of Ice Cream ...	22	2	2	—	—	1	23
Manufacture of Preserved Food	70	2	2	—	—	2	70
Fish Frying and Curing ...	31	3	3	—	—	3	31
Butter and Margarine Dealers	1	1	1	—	—	—	2

FOOD HYGIENE.

During the year, the special attention devoted to restaurant kitchens, canteens and similar public eating places was continued. The work of requiring the installation or renewal of fittings in accordance with modern standards bore considerable success and the appended table gives adequate indication of its nature.

The practice of giving lectures to food handlers was continued with the use of visual aid equipment.

In conjunction with the Clean Food Exhibition held in June, special lectures were run expressly for the managers of food premises and for the personnel engaged in the preparation and distribution of food.

As an adjunct to the advice given in the use of detergents and sterilisers, experiments were carried out on the bactericidal efficiency of detergents. Samples of dishwashing water were taken for bacteriological examination.

No. of visits and re-visits made	...	...	...	...	...	951
No. of interviews held...	...	...	...	...	...	180
No. of letters sent or arrangements made	...	...	...	...	...	215
Work carried out :						
Premises completely redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	36
Premises partly redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water Heaters installed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Additional Sinks installed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	...	...	22
Washing Facilities provided	20
Kitchens enlarged	3
Ventilation improved	1
Miscellaneous Works	99

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ICE CREAM

Eighty-three samples of ice cream were examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Judging the samples of ice cream on the time taken to decolourise Methylene Blue and applying the Public Health Laboratory Service grading, the results of the examinations are shown below :

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE GRADING			
Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
43	16	19	5

These results show a considerable improvement over the figures for the previous year and are consistent with an improved standard of hygiene in manufacture and handling.

Those falling in categories 3 and 4 were samples considered unsatisfactory, and necessitated further investigation either at the place of manufacture or at the premises from which the ice cream was sold.

In nine samples of the ice cream, faecal coli was reported present and further investigation was made and instruction given on the observance of hygienic principles.

No. of ice cream ingredients submitted for examination in
course of supervision of manufacture 5

MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	4,847	1,469	2,890	8,598	899	18,703
Number Inspected ...	4,847	1,469	2,890	8,598	899	18,703
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	8	15	14	7	46
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,711	756	20	1,482	132	4,101
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	35.34%	52.01%	1.21%	17.40%	15.46%	22.17%
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	29	45	4	4	8	90
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	658	519	—	7	50	1,234
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.17%	38.39%	0.14%	0.13%	6.45%	7.08%

Forty-nine cattle were slaughtered outside the Borough as Foot and Mouth Disease contacts, but were inspected in the Luton slaughterhouses.

Eight meat specimens were taken in the course of meat inspection for bacteriological examination.

In conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory Service, an investigation was commenced towards the end of the year into the incidence of Salmonella and Brucella organisms in bovine spleens. Thirty-two specimens were taken which proved to be negative.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CALVES

During the year the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified of two calves examined in slaughterhouses and found to be affected with Tuberculosis.

The Divisional Veterinary Inspector reported that in one instance the calf had been sold by a dealer and it was not possible to trace the Dam. In the other, the cow was traced but examination failed to reveal evidence of Tuberculosis.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

The system of inspection to locate Cysticercus Bovis infestation in cattle was continued in all carcasses during the year. Seven cases were diagnosed and the carcasses were dealt with in accordance with approved policy.

In addition, the inspectors in the districts of origin were notified in an attempt to assist in the location of infected pastures.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1949	...	33
Applications for Licences considered during 1950	... ..	2
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1950	...	35

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The amount of unsound food condemned and destroyed during the year comprised :

<i>No. of Parcels</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
3,015	Beef	160,864
189	Pork	5,701
375	Mutton	4,540
24	Meat, other than from Slaughterhouses ...	3,381
563	Bacon	6
	Poultry	66
	Vegetables—Fresh, Dried and Canned and Soups	1,832
	Fish—Fresh and Canned	1,855
	Fish—Shell	14
	Rabbits—Home Killed and Canned	61
	Cheese	36
	Canned and Powdered Milk	968
	Canned and Cooked Meat	2,309
	Crumpets, Cakes, Cake Mixture, Buns, etc. ...	35
	Flour	7
	Preserves	217
	Gravy and Curry Powder	37
	Puddings and Pudding Mixtures	40
	Fruit—Fresh and Canned	1,369
	Fruit—Dried	153
	Cereals	140
	Sweets	4
	Eggs	10
	Biscuits	7
	Pickles and Sauces	53
	Pastes—Fish and Meat	68
	Sausages	71
	Marzipan Paste	208
	Sundries	80
82 tons 4 cwts. 0 qr. 4 lbs.		
4,166		184,132

The above statement includes the weight of the entire carcasses and organs of 31 cattle, excluding cows, 53 cows, 19 calves, 18 sheep and lambs and 15 pigs.

Eleven food samples were examined bacteriologically in course of food inspection.

In addition, two samples of miscellaneous foods were submitted for examination in connection with an outbreak of suspected food poisoning. No infective organisms were found. During another investigation into a case of suspected food poisoning 18 swabs of nose, throat, ear and hand were taken from personnel engaged in the preparation of cooked meats.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year 349 samples were taken, 142 being formal and 207 informal samples.

<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Nature of Sample</i>
—	5	Butter
—	3	Meat and meat products
—	28	Confectionery, sweets, etc.
—	28	Fish—canned, and fish and meat paste
—	29	Fruit—fresh and preserved
—	40	Groceries—miscellaneous
—	12	Jam, honey, marmalade, etc.
—	25	Lard, Cooking Fat and Suet
—	5	Margarine
—	14	Milk and Milk Foods (canned)
128	3	Milk
—	4	Patent medicines and chemical substances
6	—	Sausages and sausage meat
—	7	Temperance drinks and non-alcoholic wines
8	4	Wines, spirits and beers
<hr/> 142	<hr/> 207	
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Of the samples analysed 15 were reported to be not genuine, details of which, and the action taken in regard thereto, are as follows :

Sample No.	Formal	Article	Adulteration or Other Irregularity	Action taken
8625	1	Milk	Extraneous Water 1.6%	Matter investigated at farm and warning given. Proceedings instituted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, against consignor who was fined £10 on each count and ordered to pay £3 9s. 0d. costs.
8626	1	Milk	Extraneous Water 4.9%	
8627	1	Milk	Extraneous Water 2.8%	
8742	1	Milk	Fat deficient 9.0%	Average fat content of total consignment did not fall below statutory minimum. Farm visited and advice given on handling.
8746	1	Milk	Fat deficient 9.0%	
8726	1	Milk	Extraneous Water 4.8%	Matter investigated at farm and warning given. See Sample No. 8870. "Appeal to Cow" following report on Sample No. 8862. Reported to Agricultural Advisory Officer with request that farmer be advised on feeding and handling.
8727	1	Milk	Extraneous Water 4.2%	
8862	1	Milk	Fat deficient 38.0%	
8870	1	Milk	Fat deficient 41.0%	
8893	1	Milk	Fat deficient 34.0%	Average fat content of total consignment did not fall below statutory minimum. Farm visited and advice given on handling.
8914	1	Milk	Fat deficient 21.0%	Average fat content of total consignment did not fall below statutory minimum. Farm visited and advice given on handling.
8916	1	Milk	Fat deficient 10.0%	Farm visited and advice given on handling. Warning letter sent.
8921	1	Milk	Extraneous Water 0.4%	Farmer informed. No further action.
8937	In-formal	Teaseed Oil	Mineral Oil 65%	Sale took place in Hertfordshire, but alleged to have been consigned from Luton. Referred to Food and Drugs Inspector, Hertfordshire County Council, for formal sampling.
8938	In-formal	Teaseed Oil	Mineral Oil 40%	

Other Proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :

Two prosecutions were instituted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for foreign bodies in cakes. The firm concerned was fined £10, plus £1 1s. costs.

One prosecution was instituted under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for a foreign body in potato crisps, and four prosecutions under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. In connection with these, the case was adjourned *sine die* with option to restore, because the defendant could not be found.

HEALTH EDUCATION

During 1950 forty-nine lectures were given by members of the staff to audiences in the town totalling nearly eighteen hundred persons. The subjects of the lectures can be divided into the following groups :

Infant and Child Care	...	16 Lectures
Food Hygiene	... ..	25 „
Minor Ailments	... ..	3 „
Health Services	... ..	5 „

Many of the lectures were accompanied by visual aids of various kinds such as films and film strips, as well as practical demonstrations.

Examinations in Child Care were organised by two of the voluntary youth organisations in the town.

The exhibition of posters and distribution of leaflets, etc., was carried out as a routine measure throughout the year at welfare centres and day nurseries.

THE CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

A Clean Food Campaign was started in May to draw attention to the rising incidence in food poisoning and to enlist support for securing an improvement in the hygiene of food premises.

The Campaign opened with a delegate conference addressed by Dr. Robert Sutherland, Medical Adviser and Secretary of the Central Council for Health Education, at which 152 delegates attended representing 67 organisations. A report on the conference was sent to each delegate.

On June 3rd His Worship the Mayor opened a Clean Food Exhibition in the small Assembly Hall at the Town Hall. It was open daily from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. until June 10th, and it is estimated that 4,500 people visited the exhibition. During the mornings parties of school children attended and were conducted round the exhibits by members of the Public Health Department staff. Film shows were given, each of approximately 45 minutes duration. Over 600 school children attended in parties of about 20 children.

The following films were shown throughout the exhibition :

“ Fly about the House.”

“ The Good Housewife in her Kitchen.”

“ One Man’s Story.”

“ Another Case of Poisoning.”

“ The Milky Way.”

“ Tracing the spread of infection.”

The following special lectures were given during the week to invited audiences :

Monday, June 5th, 7.30 p.m.

MORLEY PARRY, ESQ.,
Food Hygiene Adviser to the Ministry of Food

“ Hygiene of Food Premises.”

To people directly engaged in the preparation and distribution of food.

Tuesday, June 6th, 7.30 p.m.

PROFESSOR ROBERT CRUICKSHANK,
M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
St. Mary's Hospital Medical School

“ Food Infections.”

To representatives of the staffs of local hospitals and the public health services.

Friday, June 9th, 7.30 p.m.

DR. BETTY C. HOBBS,
Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale

“ Food Hygiene.”

To representatives of the managements of food premises.

In April the Borough Council adopted the Model Bye-Laws of the Ministry of Food and they became effective from July 10th, 1950.